

Message Text

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E.O. N/A
TAGS: EFIS, CA
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S MARCH 16 PRESS CONFERENCE:
COMMENTS ON BILATERAL FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF EXCHANGE WITH REPORTER REGARD-
ING CUTLER-CADIEUX TALKS:

BEGIN TEXT. Q. MR. PRIME MINISTER, ON THE TWO HUNDRED
MILE LIMIT ITS BEEN REPORTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE
BROKEN DOWN AND I'M WONDERING IF THAT IS IN FACT WHAT HAS
HAPPENED, WHAT OTHER ROUTES ARE AVAILABLE? WILL IT HAVE
TO GO TO POLITICAL LEVELS TO SETTLE THAT QUESTION FOR
CANADA, OUR INTERESTS?

A. WELL, I'M A LITTLE BIT EMBARRASSED HERE BECAUSE I'M
NOT -- WE ARE NEGOTIATING WITH THE AMERICANS AND I DON'T
WANT TO MAKE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT THAT WOULD HARM THOSE
NEGOTIATIONS. I'LL TRY TO BE CAUTIOUS AND MAYBE IF IT'S
USELESS CAUTION WE'LL GIVE YOU THE TRUTH A LITTLE LATER
IN AN HOUR OR SO. I DO KNOW THAT I MET MR. CADIEUX OUR
NEGOTIATOR AND HE SAID HE WAS HAVING DIFFICULTIES ON SOME
FINAL BUT VERY IMPORTANT QUESTIONS, THAT MANY, MANY OF
THE DIFFICULT SUBJECTS HAD BEEN -- TENTATIVE AGREEMENT
HAD BEEN REACHED SUBJECT TO THE OVERALL PACKAGE AND THERE
ARE SOME DIFFICULTIES IN THAT LAST BIT AND I BELIEVE BOTH
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NEGOTIATORS HAVE GONE BACK TO THEIR PRINCIPAL. AS I SAY
MR. CADIEUX HAS COME TO ME FOR CERTAIN INSTRUCTIONS AND
I BELIEVE PRESIDENT CARTER IS ALSO RECEIVING MR. CARVER,
I BELIEVE IT IS, SO, I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHAT HAPPENS HERE.
MY INCLINATION WOULD BE TO TELL THEM TO CONTINUE NEGOTI-
ATING A BIT MORE. I DON'T THINK THAT I'D WANT TO SEE A
POLITICAL DECISION IMPOSED NOW EITHER TO BREAK OFF OR TO

DO SOMETHING UNILATERALLY OR ARBITRARILY BUT I CAN'T SAY
WHAT IS HAPPENING BETWEEN THE NEGOTIATORS.

Q. ONE SUPPLEMENTARY: HOW MUCH EMPHASIS CAN WE PUT ON
THE GOODWILL THAT WE HAVE SEEN INCREASING BETWEEN CANADA
AND THE UNITED STATES WITH YOUR STATEMENT TO CONGRESS ETC.,
THOSE KINDS OF THINGS?

A. IN A SENSE THAT'S WHY I'M SO CAUTIOUS IN MY ANSWER.
I BELIEVE THAT GOODWILL EXISTS. I BELIEVE OUR NEGOTIATORS
HAVE MADE TREMENDOUS PROGRESS. AND, I AM INCLINED TO
BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD PROLONG THEIR MANDATE A LITTLE BIT
BUT I WOULDN'T PROPOSE THAT UNILATERALLY AND BECAUSE I
DON'T KNOW WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SAID AT THE OTHER
END I'M HEDGING A LITTLE BIT BUT SINCE I SAW MR. CADIEUX
ON TUESDAY, IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE BOTH NEGOTIATORS HAVE
AGREED ON ONE COURSE OR ANOTHER AND WE COULD TELL YOU IF
YOU GIVE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS A CALL RIGHT AFTER THIS PRESS
CONFERENCE. THEY MIGHT SAY WELL WE CAN'T SAY ANYTHING
MORE OR THEY MIGHT SAY WELL, WE'VE AGREED TO PROLONG OR
AGREED TO BREAK OFF ALTERNATIVELY. END TEXT. ENDERS

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